

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Jürgen Ficker et al.

Serial No.: 10/562,989

Filed: December 28, 2005

Title: Method and Device for Patterning Organic Layers

Examiner: Nahida Sultana Art Unit: 4151

Attorney Docket: 411000-143 Customer No. 27162

Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This paper is in response to an Office Action dated Nov. 12, 2008 having a response due date set to expire on December 12, 2008.

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as shown beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6.

VERSION SHOWING THE CHANGES TO THE CLAIMS

This listing replaces all prior listings of the claims.

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows:

1 (Previously presented). A method for patterning an unpatterned organic layer comprising a layer-forming substance for use in organic circuits, the method comprising:

applying a patterning device at a predetermined, elevated temperature and at a predetermined pressure to contact points on the organic layer, the layer-forming substance of the organic layer retreating from the contact points in response to the applied pressure and elevated temperature to thereby form depressions and/or holes in the organic layer.

2 (Previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 1 including choosing the substance which forms the organic layer such that the organic layer is opened permanently under the applying action of the patterning device .

3 (Previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 1 including effecting the applying step over a predetermined time period.

4 (Previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 1 including supporting the

patterning device on a planar carrier

5 (Previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 1 including forming the patterned organic layer depressions and/or holes in accordance with a pattern on the patterning device .

6 (Previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 5, including providing a further layer covered by the organic layer , the depressions and/or holes essentially extending continuously to the further layer .

7 (Currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 5 ~~wherein~~ including forming the depressions and/or holes for forming plated-through holes.

8 (Previously presented). A device for patterning an organic layer comprising a layer-forming substance for use in an organic circuit, the device comprising:

a support; and

a patterning arrangement coupled to the support and having predetermined dimensions, the patterning arrangement being arranged for being heated to a predetermined elevated temperature and for receiving a predetermined pressure for contacting the layer-forming substance of the organic layer at the elevated temperature and predetermined pressure to displace the layer-forming substance such that

depressions and/or holes are formed in the layer-forming substance, which depressions and/or holes essentially correspond to the dimensions of the patterning arrangement .

9 (Previously presented). The device as claimed in claim 8 wherein the layer-forming substance which forms the organic layer this opened permanently under the action of the patterning arrangement.

10 (Previously presented). The device as claimed in claim 8 wherein the support comprises a planar carrier .

11 (Currently amended). The device as claimed in claim 8 wherein the support is a planar, flexible carrier, ~~which is~~ arranged circumferentially on a roll-type carrier .

12 (Previously presented). The device as claimed in claim 11 wherein the roll-type carrier has a circumferential speed, the device including a conveying device for conveying the organic layer essentially synchronously with the circumferential speed of the roll-type carrier .

13 (Previously presented). The device as claimed in claim 8 including a further device for pressing the patterning arrangement into the organic layer at the predetermined pressure.

14 (Previously presented). The device as claimed in claim 8 including a further device for heating the patterning arrangement to the predetermined temperature.

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are active and subject to restriction. The claims are restricted to Group I, process claims 1-7 and Group II, apparatus claims 8-14. Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-7, with traverse.

Minor amendment is made to certain of the claims to improve their form or correct for typographic error.

The Action states that a telephone call was made to John Gilfillan on August 28, 2008. Mr. Gilfillan was deceased on that date.

The Action states that the Groups I and II claims do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1, because they lack the same special technical features. This is not a proper basis for restriction of the claims under PCT Rule 13.1. As MPEP 1850 III (A) states:

“PCT Rule 13 shall be construed as permitting . . .

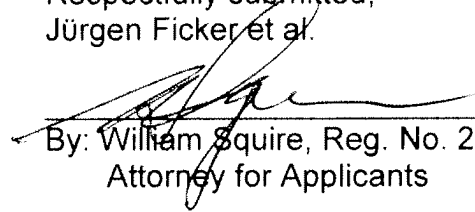
(B) In addition to an independent claim for a given process, an independent claim for an apparatus or means specially designed for carrying out the process.”

Claim 1, Group I, is an independent claim for a given process. Claim 8 is an independent claim, Group II, for an apparatus or means specially designed for carrying out the process of claim 1. The claims of Group II are permitted under Rule 13, the restriction is in error and should be withdrawn.

No fee is believed due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee due for this paper or credit any overpayment made to deposit account 03-0678.

December 9, 2008

Respectfully submitted,
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